



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7pm in the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr John Greaves (Chair), Cllr Neil Tysall, Cllr Guy James, Cllr Patrick Buck, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Sally Burns, Cllr Ken Walsh, Town Clerk Mrs D McBride and Deputy Town Clerk Miss S Dolphin.

The Chair, Cllr John Greaves welcomed everyone to the September meeting.

09.01.23 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Phil Clarke – work.
Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

09.02.23 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Buck declared an interest in Agenda items under 09.06.23 relating to the Food Bank.
Cllr Walsh declared an interest in Agenda item 09.07.23/b/4 relating to a Planning Application at Castle Hill.

09.03.23 Democratic Public Time.

There were four members of public present.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler stated that £8,000 had been issued recently by the Childe Endowment Trust to young people for educational purposes. Council agreed to cover the cost of another meeting on 27th October. Cllr Butler noted that we are putting together some costings for additional grounds maintenance work for Shropshire Council. Cllr Butler will discuss our proposals with Mark Barrow as they are keen for us to pilot new ways of working. It was noted that there has been no response regarding our suggestion to the Nursing Home applicant to hold a public information event. There are a number of Parish Clerk vacancies in this area. Points raised from the members of public present:

- Can a resident have a copy of the Tree Survey Report when it is completed? This should be possible when the Town Council goes out to tender for the required tree work.
- Beacons around the country will be lit for the D-Day Anniversary. It would be good if we light ours then too. Council is aware of this occasion and is planning to be involved.
- The Talbot Car Park lighting issue is ongoing and no responses are being received from Shropshire Council. The Car Park is in a very poor state. The Chairman confirmed this is one area we are costing out grounds maintenance work as well as the path from Lacon Childe to Cleobury Meadows.
- There is a street light out in Grove Meadow. This will be followed up.
- Who maintains the public Phone Boxes? This would be BT although, if not used very often they may be available for adoption by the Town Council for other purposes.
- The DEFRA Hedgerow Consultation is due to close on 20th September. The Tree Warden will send some comments through to the Clerk as he feels we should respond to the consultation. The Tree Warden had visited a property at Castle Hill and recommended 'no objection' to the proposals. Comments have been made about the condition of some trees adjacent to the A4117 near Mawley Hall. It was felt that these trees would be managed appropriately as part of the estate work.

09.04.23 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7th August 2023.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th August 2023, duly signed by the Chair.

09.05.23 Matters arising from the Minutes / Update since last Council meeting.

- a) Council noted receipt of the Town Clerk's Report.
- b) Councillors' Reports:
 - Cllr Hainsworth noted an abandoned car at Childe Road West Car Park has been moved.
 - Cllr Hainsworth commented that debris from storm-damaged trees has still not been removed from the entrance to the electric sub-station on Tenbury Road. Issue to be reported to Shropshire Council via Fix My Street.
 - Cllr James reported on the Councillor Surgery held on Saturday 19th August. Issues raised included the condition of the High Street lime trees, weeds on pavements, blocked gullies, the condition of the Manor House and the Wells. The missing No cycling sign at the top of the path off The Hurst by the old Telephone Exchange has been reported to Shropshire Council.

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- Cllr Burns asked if there was any update on the Post Office. The Clerk noted in her report that measurements have been taken for new equipment.
- Cllr Burns asked about the rules for missing meetings. She was informed that councillors can miss up to six months of meetings before being disqualified but there are other considerations.
- Cllr Tysall asked if we could challenge Shropshire Council to install solar lights in the Talbot Car Park. Whilst we cannot install solar lights without their permission, we are concerned at their lack of action in getting the electric lights repaired and this option should be offered to them.
- Cllr Tysall asked about the maintenance of the street planters. This is all in hand with those responsible but we could offer some out for sponsorship again.
- Cllr Tysall noted we lack signage about historic buildings and places of interest in town.
- Cllr Greaves confirmed there are two candidates for the councillor vacancy. A recommendation for co-option will be made at the October Council meeting.
- Cllr Greaves stated that we have received the Examiner's Report on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). It is available through our website and on Shropshire Council's website. The next step is for the NDP to go to Shropshire Council Cabinet on 18th October and if approved, will go for Referendum on 7th December. The next councillor surgeries are on 16th September and 21st October. Councillors are encouraged to attend these community engagement sessions.
- Cllr Walsh asked if we can send a letter to properties where hedges have overgrown walkways. It was confirmed that we already do this and letters can be dropped off by councillors or staff. We will also put a feature about hedge management on our website.
- Cllr Walsh asked if the Co-op would be interested in being a parcel drop-off point. The Clerk will ask. Cllr Greaves stated that Royal Mail will collect parcels if booked and paid for online.
- Cllr Hainsworth commented that since the Highways Site Meeting in July, most pot holes have been attended to but not the drains. This will be chased up with Andy Keyland at Highways.

09.06.23 Financial Matters.

a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following invoices for payment:

Cleobury Country – Meeting Room Hire - £22.50
PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit Fee - £504.00
A Wakeman – Electrical work for Christmas lights - £72.00
M H Goals – Football goals - £1,448.40
R Price – Grass cutting and tree work - £2,030.00
Market Hall Trust – Room Hire (Food Bank, Police) - £100.00
Black Country Metal Works – Coronation Plaque - £238.80
The following invoices had been received after the Agenda was published:
A Guest – Contract grass cutting - £1,182.85
Blachere Illumination – Christmas lights - £4,032.00

b) Council noted receipt of the following income:

Food Bank Donations - £80.00
Parish Hall – court costs instalments - £200.00
Bank Interest - £186.99

c) Council RESOLVED to approve the following Debit Card payments made:

Imperative Training – Defibrillator Spares - £156.00
Food Bank Vouchers - £170.00
Petty Cash – £200.00
SLCC – Training Course - £36.00
W H Smith's – Stationery - £3.30

d) External Auditor's Report for 2022-23.

Council reviewed the External Auditor's Report and noted that there were no matters of concern raised by the auditors and thanked Mrs McBride for her work with the finances.

e) Ukrainian flag.

Council discussed whether to replace the Ukrainian flag which is in poor condition. Council RESOLVED to continue support for Ukraine and purchase a better quality replacement flag.

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f) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2023-24.

Council RESOLVED to confirm the appointment of D Malley as internal auditor for 2023-24.

09.07.23 Planning Matters.

a) Presentation on planning considerations relating to biodiversity net gain.

Mr C Smith, Town Council's Tree Warden spoke about Biodiversity Net Gain in relation to planning applications considered by councils. From November 2023, under the 2021 Environment Act, all planning permissions granted in England, except for small sites, will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). It was agreed to seek training and advice from SALC for councillors when assessing planning applications, but also seek assurance from Shropshire Council that they will comply with the new legislation and that we will receive the increase in Neighbourhood Fund from CIL should the NDP be successful at Referendum.

b) New Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 23/03424/AGR (For Information Only)
Address: Withypool Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0DB
Proposal: Erection of a steel portal frame building to house sprayer and sprayer wash area.
Applicant: Hinwood.
Outcome: This application has been refused by Shropshire Council.
2. Reference: 23/03581/FUL (validated: 15/08/2023)
Address: 1 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DZ
Proposal: Application for the erection of a front porch (retrospective) together with erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
Applicant: Mr. M. Booton (1 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8DZ)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
3. Reference: 23/03264/PA3MA (validated: 17/08/2023)
Address: 7-9 Talbot Square, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8BQ
Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed change of use of the ground floor from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to provide 3 flats, under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).
Applicant: Mr Walivr Rahman.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
4. Reference: 23/03436/TCA (validated: 01/08/2023)
Address: Hill House, 2 Castle Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8DA
Proposal: To remove 5no. Elder (T1-3,6,9), 2no. Yew (T5,10), 1no. Holly (T4) and 1no. Laurel (T7) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area.
Applicant: Mr Timothy Elcock
Outcome: This application has been given consent by Shropshire Council.

c) Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

1. Reference: 23/02233/FUL
Address: 3 College Close Cleobury Mortimer Kidderminster Shropshire DY14 8PG
Proposal: Erection of a two storey rear extension
Decision: Grant Permission.
2. Reference: 23/02747/LBC (validated: 26/06/2023)
Address: Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PN
Proposal: Removal and replacement of the existing flue liner to the ground floor Hall fireplace at Mawley Hall and associated repair works
Decision: Grant Permission
3. Reference: 23/01883/FUL (validated: 25/05/2023)
Address: Woodside Fishery, Milson, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0BU
Proposal: Erection of a single four bedroom holiday cottage with associated parking.
Decision: Withdrawn.

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4. Reference: 23/02494/FUL (validated: 26/06/2023)
Address: Mawley Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PJ
Proposal: Extension of existing cattle buildings to provide roof over loading area and feed areas
Decision: Grant Permission

 5. Reference: 23/02922/FUL (validated: 05/07/2023)
Address: Kinkora, 10 Furlongs Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8AR
Proposal: Proposed pitched roof over existing garage
Decision: Grant Permission.

 6. Reference: 23/03261/TCA (validated: 27/07/2023)
Address: Inverbeg, Pinkham, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8QE
Proposal: To fell 1no. Silver Birch tree (No. 2) within Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area
Applicant: Mr Michael Halliday (Inverbeg, Pinkham, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8QE).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the proposals.

09.08.23 Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Council RESOLVED to adopt the updated Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

09.09.23 Action Log Review.

Council reviewed the Action Log. The following points were noted:

- Highways issues – we continue to chase Shropshire Council for action. Two new planters have been delivered and will be planted once we are satisfied with their location.
- Christmas Lights – we may need to change the existing sockets to accommodate the new garland lights but will then have to consider how to connect the existing motif lights.
- Wells – samples of tiles will be obtained to visualise the options recommended in the advice previously received from the Planning Officer.
- QEII Park – the new Fields In Trust Sign will be installed at the central junction of pathways near the Skate Park.
- QEII Park – Youth Shelter – external quotes to sand and re-paint are prohibitive so work will be completed in house as we will have new Maintenance Assistant soon.
- QEII Park - Coronation Oak Tree – this will be planted once the tree work in the park has been completed.

09.10.23 Date of the next Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd October 2023, commencing at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed:.....**J Greaves**.....Chair

2nd October 2023
Date.....